

5 What is claimed is:

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1. Apparatus for decoding a datastream of MPEG compatible packetized program information containing program map table information to provide decoded program data, comprising:

means for identifying channel map information conveyed within said packetized program information, said channel map information associating a broadcast channel with packet identifiers used to identify individual packetized datastreams that constitute a program transmitted in said broadcast channel; and

means for assembling said identified information to form a channel map for identifying said individual packetized datastreams constituting said program, wherein

said channel map information replicates information conveyed in said MPEG compatible program map ~~table information~~

2. Apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said channel map information further associates an individual program with a corresponding program clock reference (PCR) value.

3. Apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said channel map information further associates an individual program with a corresponding language type indicator.

4. Apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said channel map information further associates an individual program with a corresponding physical transmission channel carrier frequency.

5. Apparatus according to claim 1, including means for tuning to receive said program transmitted on said broadcast channel using said channel map information for acquisition of said program.

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6. Apparatus according to claim 1, wherein
said channel map information further associates said
packet identifiers with first and second identification numbers
used in conjunction to identify said broadcast channel.

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7. Apparatus according to claim 6, wherein
said decoder acquires said program transmitted on
said broadcast channel in response to User entry of said first and
second identification numbers.

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8. Apparatus according to claim 1, wherein
said information associating said broadcast channel
with said packet identifiers is conveyed within a descriptor
section of said channel map information.

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9. Apparatus according to claim 8, wherein
said channel map information associates a plurality of
broadcast channels with corresponding descriptor sections.

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10. Apparatus according to claim 1, wherein
said channel map information further associates a
datastream type indicator with an individual packetized
datastream, said datastream type indicator identifying whether
said individual packetized datastream contains at least one of a)
audio information, and b) video information.

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5 11. Apparatus for decoding MPEG compatible packetized program information to provide decoded program data, comprising:

means for identifying channel map information conveyed within said packetized program information, said
10 channel map information associating a broadcast channel with packet identifiers used to identify individual packetized datastreams that constitute a program transmitted in said broadcast channel; and

means for assembling said identified information to
15 form a channel map for identifying said individual packetized datastreams constituting said program, wherein

said channel map information associates an individual program with a corresponding language type indicator.

20 12. Apparatus according to claim 11, wherein said channel map information associates an individual program with a corresponding program clock reference (PCR) value.

25 *Suba* 13. A storage medium containing MPEG compatible digital data representing video information comprising:


a video program;

MPEG compatible program map table information; and

30 channel map information contained within said MPEG compatible digital data, said channel map information associating packet identifiers with individual packetized datastreams that constitute said video program, wherein

said channel map information replicates information conveyed in said MPEG compatible program map
35 table information.

40 14. A storage medium according to claim 13, wherein said channel map information further associates an individual program with a corresponding language type indicator.



5 15. A storage medium according to claim 13, wherein
said channel map information further associates an
individual program with a corresponding program clock reference
(PCR) value.

10 *Sub a3* 16. Apparatus for forming program guide information
suitable for decoding MPEG compatible packetized program
information containing program map table information to provide
decoded program data, comprising:

15 means for forming channel map information including
information associating a broadcast channel with packet
identifiers used to identify individual packetized datastreams that
constitute a program transmitted in said broadcast channel; and

20 means for incorporating said channel map information
into packetized program guide information for output, wherein
said channel map information replicates
information conveyed in said MPEG compatible program map
table information.

25 17. Apparatus according to claim 16, wherein
said channel map information further associates an
individual program with a corresponding program clock reference
(PCR) value.

30 18. Apparatus according to claim 16, wherein
said channel map information further associates an
individual program with a corresponding language type indicator.

35 19. Apparatus according to claim 16, wherein
said channel map information further associates said
packet identifiers with first and second identification numbers
used in conjunction to identify said broadcast channel.

40 20. Apparatus according to claim 16, wherein
said information associating said broadcast channel
with said packet identifiers is conveyed within a descriptor
section of said channel map information.

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21. Apparatus according to claim 20, wherein
said channel map information associates a plurality of
broadcast channels with corresponding descriptor sections.

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22. Apparatus according to claim 16, wherein
said channel map information further associates a
datastream type indicator with an individual packetized
datastream, said datastream type indicator identifying whether
said individual packetized datastream contains at least one of a)
15 audio information, and b) video information.

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23. A method for decoding MPEG compatible
packetized program information containing program map table
information to provide decoded program data, comprising the
steps of:

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identifying channel map information conveyed within
said packetized program information, said channel map
information associating a broadcast channel with packet
identifiers used to identify individual packetized datastreams that
constitute a program transmitted on said broadcast channel; and

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assembling said identified information to form a
channel map suitable for use in identifying said individual
packetized datastreams constituting said program, wherein

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said channel map information replicates
information conveyed in said MPEG compatible program map
table information.

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5 24. A method for forming program guide information
suitable for decoding MPEG compatible packetized program
information containing program map table information to provide
decoded program data, comprising the steps of:

10 forming channel map information including
information associating a broadcast channel with packet
identifiers used to identify individual packetized datastreams that
constitute a program transmitted on said broadcast channel; and

 incorporating said channel map information into
packetized program guide information for output, wherein

15 said channel map information replicates
information conveyed in said MPEG compatible program map
table information.

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